National Highways that are unfit for traffic movement

1736. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many segments of National Highways laid recently had become unfit for traffic movements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the contractors of National Highway projects are not following the quality norms of the NHAI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) National Highways segments constructed recently are in traffic worthy condition.

(c) and (d) The quality norms as per the contract agreement are being followed by the contractors appointed by NHAI.

Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway

1737. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) after declaration in the Parliament regarding taking up the progress of the work of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway;

(b) the phases of the planning and implementation;

(c) whether it is a fact that the land in 300 m. width along the proposed alignment of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway is frozen by State Government long back in 1991; if so, by when the acquisition would start; and

(d) Government's plan for starting of the construction of proposed Expressway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The bids have been invited from consultants for preparation of feasibility report for Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway.

(b) Various phases of the expressway project on Build Operate and Transfer basis are:

(i) Feasibility study involving selection of alignment.

(ii) Approval for taking up project.

(iii) Land acquisition.

(iv) Pre-qualification of bidders.

(v) Invitation and award of bids.

(vi) Financial close.

(vii) Commencement of work.

(viii) completion of the facility.

(ix) commercial operation.

(c) Central Government is aware that Government of Gujarat had instructed local bodies (Vadodara Urban Development Authority & various Gram Panchayats) to reserve 300 m land on either side of some alignment proposed earlier. The consultants have to keep this in view while selecting the alignment of the expressway and accommodate this corridor to the extent possible.

(d) The actual work will start only after completion of feasibility study, land acquisition and financial close. These processes are expected to take about four years.

Setting up of Maritime Institute/University in Gujarat

1738. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to establish Maritime Institute on east and west coast of the country;

(b) if so, which are the States considered;

(c) whether Gujarat State is considered for west coast;

(d) whether Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to establish Maritime University in the Gujarat State in view of the large scale port-lead development and shipping activities taking place in the State;